



## Library Info Alert October/November 2004

*Library Info Alert* focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. The Library Info Alert contains summaries of recent articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. Our goal is to help the librarians to maintain their libraries as centers for information and lifelong learning in the electronic environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **1. Your Library's Future (Library Journal, October 15, 2004, Vol. 129, Iss. 17, pp. 38 - 41)**

A well-documented training and development program on succession-planning works best where the organization already has a culture of learning and development. Organizations that practice "just in time" learning and development have yet to develop the foresight or the patience to cultivate new leadership over years. Those who hope to establish succession-planning processes in these places have a Herculean task before them.

### **2. Great American Public Libraries: The 2004 HAPLR Rankings (American Libraries, October 2004, Vol. 35, Iss. 9, pp. 54 - 60)**

Several tables showing the Hennen's American Public Library Ratings are presented. Ratings show that the US economic downturn is mostly affecting the input side of the ledger. There is a lag between budget cuts and the decline in library usage. Denver Public Library has been at the top of the list for several years running, but this year--partly due to budget cuts--it slipped to third place.

### **3. Change Masters All – A Series on Librarians Who Steered a Clear Course toward the Twenty-first Century (Library Administration & Management, Fall 2004, Vol. 18, Iss. 4, pp. 192 - 198)**

In an interview, Carla Stoffle talks about how her career started when she created a community library from scratch in Barbados, while serving there in the Peace Corps. She also explains how her eternal quest to think outside of the box has

brought her career in library management to unprecedented heights.

### **4. Delivering Access to Library Materials and Services: Our Recipe to Success (Computers in Libraries, October 2004, Vol. 24, Iss. 9, pp. 6 - 10)**

Krista E. Clumpner, associate professor and head of technical services and systems at Northern Michigan University Olson Library in Marquette, Michigan, discusses the delivery of access to library materials and services. It is advisable to start with a well-organized and relatively clean Web-based online catalog. Add to this MARC records for online databases and online journals.

### **5. Using Focus Group Interviews to Improve Library Services for Youth (Teacher Librarian, October 2004, Vol. 32, Iss. 1, pp. 8 - 13)**

Sandra Hughes-Hassell, associate professor in the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University and Kay Bishop, Director of the School Library Media Specialist Program in the School of Informatics at the State University of New York at Buffalo, highlight the use of focus group interviews to improve library services for youth. A focus group is "an interview with a specific small group of people on a specific topic," usually comprised of a group of six to 10 participants who share a common experience or set of characteristics. Focus group interviews offer several benefits to time-strapped teacher-librarians because in one hour, a teacher-librarian can gather the ideas, views or opinions of six to ten people instead of only one person.

**6. Government Information Reference Service: New Roles and Models for the Post – Depository Era**  
(Library Journal, August 2004, Vol. 129, Iss. 13, pp. 36 - 45)

Debbi Schaubman, Head of the Government Documents Library, presents a panel discussion between librarians, including John Shuler, Ann Miller, and Bert Chapman. The panel explored whether librarians from different types of depository libraries experienced the same challenges and whether the depository library community could generate new ideas for providing better reference services.

**7. Intellectual and Academic Freedom**  
(Library Administration & Management, Fall 2004, Vol. 18, Iss. 4, pp 213 - 218)

Ever since the onset of problems that regularly confront librarians, they have often had to compromise their intellectual and academic freedom. Here, Bonnie A. Osif, Assistant Engineering Librarian at Pennsylvania State University suggests several books and Web sites for librarians that elaborate on intellectual and academic freedom.

**8. Wireless Networks Connect Libraries to a Mobile Society**  
(Computers in Libraries, October 2004, Vol. 24, Iss. 9, pp 29 - 32)

Today, mobile wireless computing seems to be expanding quickly beyond the domain of the professional business class; it's being adopted by computer users of all kinds, from geeks to grandmothers. In an era where the entire service industry seems to be Web-based, it's becoming increasingly inconvenient to be disconnected.

**9. Staff and Leadership Shortages? Grow Your Own**  
(American Libraries, October 2004, Vol. 35, Iss. 9, pp. 34 - 37)

Carole McConell, staff development officer for Broward County Library in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, discusses the incentives program of the Broward County Library to address the looming librarian shortage. The Graduate Intern Program creates new positions for college graduates who wish to pursue careers as professional librarians.

**10. Considering Attitude and Values in Hiring Public Librarians**  
(Public Libraries, September/October 2004, Vol. 43, Iss. 5, pp. 260 - 262)

At the Wesbury (NY) Memorial Public Library, excellent public service is a goal of the organization. Here, Cathleen A. Towey Director of the Library, discusses several things to consider in hiring public librarians. Furthermore, she stresses that if the goal of the organization is the highest level of public service, it's crucial to spend time, thought, and careful observation in order to hire individuals whose personalities and attitudes will have customers and coworkers looking forward to spending time at the library.

**NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be faxed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to [ircleipzig@state.gov](mailto:ircleipzig@state.gov)**

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